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Agenda item 142

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/48/611)]

48/30. United Nations Decade of International Law

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, by which it declared the period 1990-1999 the United Nations Decade of International Law,

Recalling also that the main purposes of the Decade, according to resolution 44/23, should be, inter alia:

(a) To promote acceptance of and respect for the principles of international law;

(b) To promote means and methods for the peaceful settlement of disputes between States, including resort to and full respect for the International Court of Justice;

(c) To encourage the progressive development of international law and its codification;

(d) To encourage the teaching, study, dissemination and wider appreciation of international law,

Recalling further its resolution 47/32 of 25 November 1992, to which was annexed the programme for the activities for the second term (1993-1994) of the Decade,

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his reports, 1/ submitted pursuant to resolution 47/32,

Recalling that at the forty-fifth session the Sixth Committee established the Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law with a view to preparing generally acceptable recommendations on the programme of activities for the Decade,

Noting that at the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions the Sixth Committee reconvened the Working Group to continue its work in accordance with resolutions 45/40 of 28 November 1990, 46/53 of 9 December 1991 and 47/32,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General 2/ containing information received from the International Committee of the Red Cross on the work of the group of experts on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict, conducted under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the draft guidelines for military manuals and instructions on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict, annexed thereto,

1. Expresses its appreciation to the Sixth Committee and its Working Group on the United Nations Decade of International Law for their work at the current session, and requests the Working Group to continue its work at the forty-ninth session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work;

2. Also expresses its appreciation to States and international organizations and institutions that have undertaken activities in implementation of the programme for the second term (1993-1994) of the Decade, including sponsoring conferences on various subjects of international law;

3. Invites all States and international organizations and institutions referred to in the programme to provide, update or supplement information on activities they have undertaken in implementation of the programme, as appropriate, to the Secretary-General, as well as to submit their views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade;

4. Takes note with appreciation, in this respect, of the International Conference on the Protection of War Victims, held at Geneva from 30 August to 1 September 1993, and its Final Declaration adopted on 1 September 1993, 3/ as an important means for reaffirming, strengthening and promoting international humanitarian law, and reminds all States of their responsibility to respect and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in order to protect the victims of war;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, on the basis of information received under paragraph 3 above, a report to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session on the implementation of the programme, together

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1/ A/48/312 and A/48/435.

2/ A/48/269.

3/ A/48/742, annex.

with views on possible activities for the next term of the Decade;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General to supplement his report, as appropriate, with new information on the activities of the United Nations relevant to the progressive development of international law and its codification, and to submit it to the General Assembly on an annual basis;

7. Encourages States to disseminate at the national level, as appropriate, information contained in the report of the Secretary-General;

8. Appeals to States, international organizations and non-governmental organizations working in this field and to the private sector to make financial contributions or contributions in kind for the purpose of facilitating the implementation of the programme;

9. Once again requests the Secretary-General to bring to the attention of States and international organizations and institutions working in the field of international law the programme annexed to resolution 47/32;

10. Decides that a United Nations congress on public international law should be held in 1995, as proposed in part III of the report of the Working Group, 4/ and requests the Secretary-General to proceed with the preparations for the congress and keep the Member States informed of the status of the preparations;

11. Expresses its appreciation of the work carried out by the group of experts on the Protection of the Environment in Times of Armed Conflict conducted under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and of the report prepared by the International Committee of the Red Cross; 5/

12. Invites all States to review the draft guidelines for military manuals and instructions on the protection of the environment in times of armed conflict annexed to the report of the International Committee of the Red Cross and to provide their comments thereon to the International Committee, either directly or through the Secretary-General, no later than 31 March 1994;

13. Welcomes the intention of the International Committee of the Red Cross to draw up a new version of the guidelines for military manuals, taking into account the comments made by States on the report of the Secretary-General 2/ containing information received from the International Committee of the Red Cross, and notes that the International Committee is ready to convene, if need be, a meeting of government experts for that purpose;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to invite the International Committee of the Red Cross to report on activities undertaken by it and other relevant bodies with regard to the protection of the environment in times

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4/ A/C.6/48/L.9.

5/ A/48/269, sect. II

of armed conflict, and to submit the information received in the report to be prepared under paragraph 5 above to the General Assembly at its forty-ninth session;

15. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-ninth session the item entitled "United Nations Decade of International Law".

73rd plenary meeting,
9 December 1993